

World Affairs Annual 2011

In the 23 pages that follow, you'll find **MAPS** and the **LATEST DATA** for each of the world's **195 INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES**—everything from languages and literacy rates to the percent of young people in the population. To better understand the data, read the explanations accompanying the sample entry for France below.

On our **SNAPSHOTS** pages, you'll learn, among other things, which countries have the most Facebook users and which have the most billionaires.

We hope that you'll keep this issue as a **YEAR-ROUND REFERENCE**, and that it will help you make sense of world events in the year ahead.

Area & Population:

Taken together, these figures allow you to calculate population density (population divided by area)—the average number of people who live on each square mile of land.

Urban Population:

The percent of a country's total population living in urban areas.

Political System & Head of Government:

Presidential-parliamentary systems split authority between a President (head of state) and a Prime Minister (head of government). The more powerful of the two is listed. (See also p. 27.)

Date of Origin: The year in which a country declared independence, won control of its affairs, or established its present boundaries.

Literacy Rate: The percent of people who can read and write (male/female¹).

Per Capita GDP: The value in U.S. dollars of all goods and services produced within a country in one year (its gross domestic product), divided by its population. It is one way to gauge a nation's wealth.

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
France	212,934	77	Paris	French, regional dialects	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Nicolas Sarkozy	486	99/99	\$32,600
	63,000,000	0.4				18	78/85	0.961

Percent of Population Increase:

The birth rate minus the death rate of a country. Population growth in poor countries tends to be higher than in wealthier ones.

Languages Spoken:

We show only major languages. Some 7,000 languages are spoken in the world, not counting local dialects. About 12 percent of all people speak Mandarin Chinese—more than double any other language.

Percent of Population Under Age 15:

Developing countries with a high percentage of young people may have trouble providing enough jobs, schools, and food.

Life Expectancy:

The age to which a newborn can expect to live. The first number is for males, the second for females.

HDI (Human Development Index):

This number measures economic and human well-being on a scale of 0 to 1. It combines life expectancy, literacy, and purchasing power into one figure.

¹When breakdown by gender is not available, a single figure represents the population as a whole.

ECONOMIC MAP OF THE WORLD



THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Number of independent nations: 195	Total population: 6.9 billion	Population under age 15: 27%	Per capita GDP: \$10,400 (U.S.: \$46,000)	Annual birth rate: 20 births per 1,000 people	Annual death rate: 8 deaths per 1,000 people	Fertility rate: 2.6 children per woman	Gender ratio at birth: 1.07 males to 1 female	Life expectancy: 67 years, males; 71 years, females	Literacy rate: 87% males, 77% females	Students attending primary school: 81% males, 78% females	Students attending secondary school: 51% males, 47% females
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SOURCES: 2010 World Population Data Sheet (Population Reference Bureau); The World Factbook 2010 (Central Intelligence Agency); The State of the World's Children 2009 (Unicef)

NORTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA



NORTH AMERICA

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Antigua and Barbuda	170	31	St. John's	English, English patois <i>[PAH-twah]</i>	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer	1981	86	\$17,800
	100,000	0.9				28	73/77	0.868
Bahamas	5,359	83	Nassau	English, Creole	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham	1973	95/97	\$29,700
	300,000	0.9				26	71/77	0.856
Barbados	166	38	Bridgetown	English, Bajan	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister David Thompson	1966	99/99	\$17,700
	300,000	0.5				19	71/76	0.903
Belize	8,865	51	Belmopan	English, Spanish, Mayan, Garifuna	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Dean Barrow	1981	77/77	\$8,300
	300,000	2.3				37	71/74	0.772
Canada	3,849,670	80	Ottawa	English, French	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Stephen Harper	1867	99/99	\$38,200
	34,100,000	0.4				17	78/83	0.966
Costa Rica	19,730	59	San José	Spanish, English	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Laura Chinchilla	1821	95/95	\$10,900
	4,600,000	1.3				23	77/82	0.854
Cuba	42,803	75	Havana	Spanish	Communist one-party state; President Raúl Castro	1902	99/99	\$9,700
	11,200,000	0.3				18	76/80	0.863
Dominica	290	73	Roseau	English, French patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit	1978	94/94	\$10,200
	100,000	0.7				23	72/78	0.814
Dominican Republic	18,815	67	Santo Domingo	Spanish	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Leonel Fernández	1844	87/87	\$8,300
	9,900,000	1.7				32	69/75	0.777
El Salvador	8,124	63	San Salvador	Spanish, Nahua	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Mauricio Funes	1821	83/80	\$7,200
	6,200,000	1.4				33	67/76	0.747
Grenada	131	31	St. George's	English, French patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Tillman Thomas	1974	96	\$10,300
	100,000	0.8				31	68/72	0.813
Guatemala	42,042	47	Guatemala City	Spanish, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Álvaro Colom Caballeros	1821	75/63	\$5,100
	14,400,000	2.8				42	66/73	0.704
Haiti	10,714	48	Port-au-Prince	French, Creole	Presidential-legislative democracy (transitional); President René Préval	1804	55/51	\$1,300
	9,800,000	1.8				37	59/62	0.532
Honduras	43,278	50	Tegucigalpa	Spanish, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-parliamentary democracy in transition after coup; President Porfirio Lobo	1821	80/80	\$4,100
	7,600,000	2.3				38	70/75	0.732
Jamaica	4,243	52	Kingston	English, English patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Bruce Golding	1962	84/92	\$8,400
	2,700,000	1.2				28	68/75	0.766
Mexico	756,062	77	Mexico City	Spanish, Mayan, other indigenous languages	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Felipe Calderón	1810	87/85	\$13,200
	110,600,000	1.4				29	74/79	0.854
Nicaragua	50,193	56	Managua	Spanish, English, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Daniel Ortega	1821	67/68	\$2,800
	6,000,000	1.8				35	69/73	0.699
Panama	29,158	64	Panama City	Spanish, English	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Ricardo Martinelli	1903	93/91	\$12,100
	3,500,000	1.6				30	73/78	0.840
Saint Kitts and Nevis	139	32	Basseterre	English, English patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Denzil Douglas	1983	98	\$14,700
	100,000	0.7				24	71/76	0.838
Saint Lucia	239	28	Castries	English, French patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Stephenson King	1979	90/91	\$10,900
	200,000	0.7				25	71/76	0.821

DATA COMPILED AND EDITED BY BRYAN BROWN, KATHY WILMORE, VERÓNICA MAJEROL, MARY HARVEY, AND STEVEN WISHNIA

NORTH AMERICA

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	151	40	Kingstown	English, English patois	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves	1979	96/96	\$10,200
	100,000	0.9				28	70/74	0.772
Trinidad and Tobago	1,981	12	Port-of-Spain	English, Hindi, French patois, Spanish	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar	1962	99/98	\$21,300
	1,300,000	0.6				25	66/73	0.837
United States	3,717,796	79	Washington, D.C.	English, Spanish, others	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Barack Obama	1776	99/99	\$46,000
	309,600,000	0.6				20	75/80	0.956

SOUTH AMERICA

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Argentina	1,073,514	91	Buenos Aires	Spanish, English, Italian, German, French	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner	1816	97/97	\$13,400
	40,500,000	1.0				26	72/79	0.866
Bolivia	424,162	65	La Paz and Sucre	Spanish, Quechua, Aymara	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Evo Morales	1825	93/81	\$4,700
	10,400,000	2.0				37	64/68	0.729
Brazil	3,300,154	84	Brasília	Portuguese, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-legislative democracy; President to be determined by October election	1822	88/89	\$10,100
	193,300,000	1.0				27	69/77	0.813
Chile	292,135	87	Santiago	Spanish	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Sebastián Piñera	1810	96/96	\$14,600
	17,100,000	0.9				24	76/82	0.878
Colombia	439,734	75	Bogotá	Spanish	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Juan Manuel Santos	1810	90/91	\$9,200
	45,500,000	1.4				30	71/78	0.807
Ecuador	109,483	65	Quito	Spanish, Quechua, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Rafael Correa	1822	92/90	\$7,500
	14,200,000	1.6				31	72/78	0.806
Guyana	83,000	28	Georgetown	English, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Bharrat Jagdeo	1966	92/92	\$6,500
	800,000	1.6				33	62/70	0.729
Paraguay	157,046	58	Asunción	Spanish, Guaraní	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Fernando Lugo	1811	95/93	\$4,600
	6,500,000	1.9				34	70/74	0.761
Peru	496,224	76	Lima	Spanish, Quechua, Aymara	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Alan García	1821	96/89	\$8,500
	29,500,000	1.6				31	71/76	0.806
Suriname	63,039	67	Paramaribo	Dutch, English, Sranang, Tongo, Hindustani, Javanese	Parliamentary democracy; President Dési Bouterse	1975	92/87	\$9,500
	500,000	1.3				30	65/73	0.769
Uruguay	68,498	94	Montevideo	Spanish, Portuguol	Presidential-legislative democracy; President José Mujica	1825	98/98	\$12,600
	3,400,000	0.5				23	72/80	0.865
Venezuela	352,143	88	Caracas	Spanish, Amerindian dialects	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Hugo Chávez	1811	93/93	\$13,000
	28,800,000	1.6				30	71/77	0.844

EUROPE

⊛ National capital
• City
..... Internal border
^ Mountains

0 200 400 MI
0 200 400 KM

* Since Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008, only 70 countries have formally recognized it as an independent state.

ATLANTIC OCEAN

ARCTIC OCEAN

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

AFRICA

ASIA

EUROPE

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Albania	11,100	49	Tirana	Albanian, Greek	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Sali Berisha	1912	99/98	\$6,400
	3,200,000	0.5				25	72/79	0.818
Andorra	174	90	Andorra la Vella	Catalan, French, Castilian, Portuguese	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Executive Council President Jaume Bartumeu Cassany	1278	99/99	\$44,900
	100,000	0.7				14	NA	0.934
Austria	32,378	67	Vienna	German	Parliamentary democracy; Chancellor Werner Faymann	1156	98	\$39,200
	8,400,000	0				15	78/83	0.955
Belarus	80,154	74	Minsk	Belarusian, Russian, others	Presidential dictatorship; President Aleksandr Lukashenko	1991	99/99	\$12,500
	9,500,000	−0.3				15	65/76	0.826
Belgium	11,787	99	Brussels	Flemish, French, German	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Yves Leterme	1830	99/99	\$36,800
	10,800,000	0.2				17	77/82	0.953
Bosnia and Herzegovina ²	19,741	46	Sarajevo	Serbo-Croatian	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); rotating Chairman of the Presidency ²	1992	99/94	\$6,400
	3,800,000	0				16	72/77	0.812
Bulgaria	42,822	71	Sofia	Bulgarian, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Boiko Borisov	1908	99/98	\$12,500
	7,500,000	−0.4				14	70/77	0.840
Croatia	21,830	56	Zagreb	Serbo-Croatian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor	1991	99/97	\$17,500
	4,400,000	−0.2				15	72/79	0.871
Czech Republic	30,448	74	Prague	Czech, Slovak	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Petr Necas	1993	99/99	\$24,900
	10,500,000	0.1				14	74/80	0.903
Denmark	16,637	72	Copenhagen	Danish, Greenlandic, Faroese, German	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen	900s	99/99	\$36,000
	5,500,000	0.1				19	76/81	0.955
Estonia	17,413	69	Tallinn	Estonian, Ukrainian, Russian, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Andrus Ansip	1991	99/99	\$18,500
	1,300,000	0				15	69/79	0.883
Finland	130,560	65	Helsinki	Finnish, Swedish, Lapp, Russian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Tarja Halonen	1917	99/99	\$34,100
	5,400,000	0.2				17	77/83	0.959
France	212,934	77	Paris	French, regional dialects	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Nicolas Sarkozy	486	99/99	\$32,600
	63,000,000	0.4				18	78/85	0.961
Germany	137,830	73	Berlin	German	Parliamentary democracy; Chancellor Angela Merkel	1871	99/99	\$34,100
	81,600,000	−0.2				14	77/82	0.947
Greece	50,950	73	Athens	Greek, English, French	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Georgios Papandreou	1829	98/94	\$31,000
	11,300,000	0.1				14	77/82	0.942
Hungary	35,919	67	Budapest	Hungarian, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Viktor Orbán	1001	99/99	\$18,800
	10,000,000	−0.3				15	70/78	0.879
Iceland	39,768	93	Reykjavík	Icelandic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurdardóttir	1944	99/99	\$39,600
	300,000	0.9				21	80/83	0.969
Ireland	27,135	60	Dublin	English, Gaelic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Brian Cowen	1921	99/99	\$41,000
	4,500,000	1.0				21	77/82	0.965
Italy	116,320	68	Rome	Italian, German, French, Slovene	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi	1861	99/98	\$29,900
	60,500,000	0				14	79/84	0.951
Kosovo ³	4,203	NA	Pristina	Albanian, Serbian, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi	2008	97/88	\$2,500
	2,300,000	1.4				31	67/71	NA
Latvia	24,942	68	Riga	Lettish, Lithuanian, Russian, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis	1991	99/99	\$14,400
	2,200,000	−0.4				14	67/78	0.866
Liechtenstein	62	15	Vaduz	German, Alemannic dialect	Constitutional monarchy; Prince Alois	1719	99/99	\$122,100
	40,000	0.4				16	79/82	0.951
Lithuania	25,174	67	Vilnius	Lithuanian, Polish, Russian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Dalia Grybauskaite	1991	99/99	\$15,500
	3,300,000	−0.1				15	66/78	0.870

²Bosnia and Herzegovina has a collective presidency that alternates among three members (one Croat, one Bosniak Muslim, and one Serb).

³Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008. As of September 2010, it is recognized by only 70 countries.

EUROPE

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Luxembourg	999	83	Luxembourg	Luxembourgish, German, French, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker	1839	99/99	\$79,600
	500,000	0.4				18	78/83	0.960
Macedonia	9,927	65	Skopje	Macedonian, Albanian, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski	1991	98/94	\$9,100
	2,100,000	0.2				19	71/76	0.817
Malta	124	94	Valletta	Maltese, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi	1964	92/94	\$24,300
	400,000	0.2				16	77/82	0.902
Moldova	13,012	41	Chisinau	Moldovan, Russian, Gagauz	Parliamentary democracy; Acting President Mihai Ghimpu ⁴	1991	99/99	\$2,300
	4,100,000	0				17	66/73	0.720
Monaco	1	100	Monaco	French, English, Italian, Monegasque	Constitutional monarchy; Prince Albert II	1419	99/99	\$30,000
	40,000	0				13	NA	NA
Montenegro	5,333	64	Podgorica	Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosniak, Albanian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Filip Vujanovic	2006	NA	\$9,800
	600,000	0.4				20	71/76	0.834
Netherlands	15,768	66	Amsterdam	Dutch	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende	1579	99/99	\$39,500
	16,600,000	0.3				18	78/82	0.964
Norway	125,050	80	Oslo	Norwegian, Lapp, Finnish	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg	1905	99/99	\$57,400
	4,900,000	0.4				19	79/83	0.971
Poland	124,807	61	Warsaw	Polish	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Bronislaw Komorowski	1918	99/99	\$17,900
	38,200,000	0.1				15	71/80	0.880
Portugal	35,514	55	Lisbon	Portuguese	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister José Sócrates	1140	96/91	\$21,700
	10,700,000	−0.1				15	75/82	0.909
Romania	92,042	55	Bucharest	Romanian, Hungarian, German	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Traian Basescu	1878	98/96	\$11,500
	21,500,000	−0.2				15	69/76	0.837
Russia	6,592,819	73	Moscow	Russian, others	Dominant party; President Dmitry Medvedev	1991	99/99	\$15,100
	141,900,000	−0.2				15	62/74	0.817
San Marino	23	84	San Marino	Italian	Parliamentary democracy; Co-Captains Regent elected every six months from the Great and General Council	301	97/95	\$41,900
	30,000	0.3				15	80/86	NA
Serbia	34,115	58	Belgrade	Serbo-Croatian, Albanian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Boris Tadic	1992	99/94	\$10,600
	7,300,000	−0.5				15	71/76	0.826
Slovakia	18,923	55	Bratislava	Slovak, Hungarian	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Iveta Radicová	1993	99/99	\$21,100
	5,400,000	0.2				15	71/79	0.880
Slovenia	7,819	50	Ljubljana	Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Borut Pahor	1991	99/99	\$27,700
	2,100,000	0.2				14	76/82	0.929
Spain	195,363	77	Madrid	Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero	1492	99/97	\$33,600
	47,100,000	0.3				15	78/84	0.955
Sweden	173,730	84	Stockholm	Swedish, Lapp, Finnish	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt	1523	99/99	\$36,600
	9,400,000	0.2				17	79/83	0.963
Switzerland	15,942	73	Bern	German, French, Italian, Romansch, others	Parliamentary democracy; rotating President from seven-member Federal Council	1291	99/99	\$41,400
	7,800,000	0.2				15	80/84	0.960
Ukraine	233,089	69	Kiev	Ukranian, Russian, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Viktor Yanukovych	1991	99/99	\$6,300
	45,900,000	−0.4				14	63/74	0.796
United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland)	94,548	80	London	English, Welsh, Scottish, Gaelic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister David Cameron	circa 900	99/99	\$34,800
	62,200,000	0.4				18	77/82	0.947
Vatican City	109 acres	100	Vatican City	Italian, Latin, others	Papal state; Pope Benedict XVI	1929	100	NA
	826	0				NA	NA	NA

⁴Postponed September elections by Parliament not rescheduled at press time.

ASIA



COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Afghanistan	251,772	22	Kabul	Pashtu, Afghan Persian, Turkic, others	Transitional democracy, territory disputed by factions; President Hamid Karzai	1919	43/13	\$1,000
	29,100,000	2.1				44	44/44	0.352
Armenia	11,506	64	Yerevan	Armenian, Russian, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Serzh Sarkisyan	1991	99/99	\$5,500
	3,100,000	0.6				20	68/75	0.798
Azerbaijan	33,436	54	Baku	Azeri, Russian, Armenian, others	Dominant party; President Ilham Aliyev	1991	99/98	\$10,400
	9,000,000	1.1				23	70/75	0.788
Bahrain	266	100	Manama	Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu	Monarchy; King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah	1971	89/84	\$38,800
	1,300,000	1.3				20	73/77	0.895
Bangladesh	55,598	25	Dhaka	Bengali, English	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed	1971	54/41	\$1,500
	164,400,000	1.5				32	65/67	0.543
Bhutan	18,147	32	Thimphu	Dzongkha, Tibetan and Nepalese dialects	Parliamentary democracy in transition from monarchy; Prime Minister Jigmi Thinley	1949	60/34	\$4,700
	700,000	1.7				31	67/68	0.619
Brunei	2,228	72	Bandar Seri Begawan	Malay, English, Chinese	Monarchy; Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah	1984	95/90	\$51,200
	400,000	1.3				27	75/80	0.920
Cambodia	69,900	20	Phnom Penh	Khmer, French	Dominant party; Prime Minister Hun Sen	1949	85/64	\$1,900
	15,100,000	1.6				35	59/63	0.593
China	3,696,100	47	Beijing	Mandarin, other Chinese languages, other languages	One-party dictatorship; President Hu Jintao	1912	96/88	\$6,600
	1,338,100,000	0.5				18	72/76	0.772
Cyprus ⁵	3,571	62	Nicosia	Greek, Turkish, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Dimitris Christofias	1960	99/96	\$21,000
	1,100,000	0.6				18	77/80	0.914
Georgia	26,911	53	Tbilisi	Georgian, Russian, Armenian, Azeri, Ossetian, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Mikheil Saakashvili	1991	99/99	\$4,400
	4,600,000	0.3				17	69/79	0.778
India	1,269,340	29	New Delhi	Hindi, English, Bengali, many others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Manmohan Singh	1947	73/48	\$3,100
	1,188,800,000	1.5				32	63/65	0.612
Indonesia	735,355	43	Jakarta	Bahasa Indonesian, English, Dutch, others	Parliamentary democracy; President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono	1945	94/87	\$4,000
	235,500,000	1.4				28	69/73	0.734
Iran	630,575	69	Tehran	Farsi, Turkic, Kurdish, Luri, others	Presidential-parliamentary under religious control; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad	1502	84/70	\$12,500
	75,100,000	1.3				28	70/73	0.782
Iraq	169,236	67	Baghdad	Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian	Transitional to parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki	1932	84/64	\$3,800
	31,500,000	2.6				41	64/72	NA
Israel ⁶	8,131	92	Jerusalem	Hebrew, Arabic, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	1948	99/96	\$28,400
	7,600,000	1.6				28	79/83	0.935
Japan	145,869	86	Tokyo	Japanese	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Naoto Kan	660 B.C.	99/99	\$32,700
	127,400,000	0				13	79/86	0.960
Jordan	34,444	83	Amman	Arabic, English	Constitutional monarchy; King Abdullah II	1946	95/85	\$5,200
	6,500,000	2.6				37	72/74	0.770
Kazakhstan	1,049,151	54	Astana	Kazakh, Russian, Ukrainian, others	Dominant party; President Nursultan Nazarbayev	1991	99/99	\$11,800
	16,300,000	1.4				24	63/74	0.804
Korea, North	46,541	60	Pyongyang	Korean	Communist dictatorship; General Secretary Kim Jong Il	1945	99/99	\$1,900
	22,800,000	0.5				22	61/66	NA
Korea, South	38,324	82	Seoul	Korean, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Lee Myung Bak	1945	99/97	\$28,100
	48,900,000	0.4				17	77/83	0.937
Kuwait	6,880	98	Kuwait	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah	1961	94/91	\$52,800
	3,100,000	2.0				23	76/80	0.916

⁵ Does not include separate Turkish Cypriot-controlled area in north.
⁶ Does not include Israeli-occupied parts of the West Bank.

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Kyrgyzstan	76,641	35	Bishkek	Kirghiz, Russian	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional after coup); Interim President Roza Otunbayeva ⁷	1991	99/98	\$2,200
	5,300,000	1.6				29	64/72	0.710
Laos	91,429	27	Vientiane	Lao, French, English, others	Communist one-party state; President Choummaly Sayasone	1949	83/63	\$2,100
	6,400,000	2.1				39	63/66	0.619
Lebanon	4,015	87	Beirut	Arabic, French, Armenian, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Michel Suleiman	1943	93/82	\$13,200
	4,300,000	1.5				25	70/74	0.803
Malaysia	127,317	63	Kuala Lumpur	Malay, English, Chinese languages, many others	Dominant party; Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak	1957	92/85	\$14,900
	28,900,000	1.6				32	72/77	0.829
Maldives	116	35	Malé	Maldivian Divehi, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Mohamed Nasheed	1965	96/96	\$4,300
	300,000	1.9				30	72/74	0.771
Mongolia	604,826	60	Ulaanbaatar	Khalkha Mongolian, Turkic, Russian, Chinese	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Sükhbaataryn Batbold	1921	98/98	\$3,100
	2,800,000	1.9				33	63/70	0.727
Myanmar (Burma)	261,228	31	Naypyidaw Myodaw	Burmese, others	Military rule; General Than Shwe	1948	94/86	\$1,100
	53,400,000	0.9				27	56/60	0.586
Nepal	56,826	17	Kathmandu	Nepali, others	Parliamentary democracy (transitional from monarchy); office of Prime Minister vacant ⁸	1768	63/35	\$1,200
	28,000,000	1.9				37	64/65	0.553
Oman	82,031	72	Muscat	Arabic, English, Baluchi, Urdu, others	Monarchy; Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said	1650	87/74	\$25,000
	3,100,000	1.8				29	70/74	0.846
Pakistan	307,375	35	Islamabad	Urdu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki, English, others	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional from military); President Asif Ali Zardari	1947	63/36	\$2,500
	184,800,000	2.3				38	66/67	0.572
Philippines	115,830	63	Manila	Filipino, English	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Benigno Aquino III	1898	93/93	\$3,300
	94,000,000	2.1				33	70/74	0.751
Qatar	4,247	100	Doha	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani	1971	89/89	\$119,500
	1,700,000	0.8				15	75/77	0.910
Saudi Arabia	829,996	81	Riyadh	Arabic	Monarchy; King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud	1932	85/71	\$20,600
	29,200,000	2.6				38	74/78	0.843
Singapore	239	100	Singapore	Chinese, Malay, Tamil, English	Dominant party; Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong	1965	97/89	\$52,200
	5,100,000	0.6				18	79/84	0.944
Sri Lanka	25,332	15	Colombo	Tamil, Sinhala, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Mahinda Rajapakse	1948	92/89	\$4,500
	20,700,000	1.2				26	72/76	0.759
Syria	71,498	54	Damascus	Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, French, others	Dominant party; President Bashar al-Assad	1946	86/74	\$4,600
	22,500,000	2.5				36	72/76	0.742
Taiwan	13,969	78	Taipei	Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Ma Ying-jeou	1949	96	\$32,000
	23,200,000	0.2				16	75/82	NA
Tajikistan	55,251	26	Dushanbe	Tajik, Russian	Dominant party; President Emomalii Rakhmon	1991	99/99	\$1,900
	7,600,000	2.4				38	64/69	0.688
Thailand	198,116	31	Bangkok	Thai, English, regional dialects	Transitional after military coup; Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva	1238	95/91	\$8,200
	68,100,000	0.6				22	66/72	0.783
Timor-Leste (East Timor)	5,741	22	Dili	Tetun, Portuguese, Indonesian, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão	2002	59	\$2,400
	1,200,000	3.1				45	60/62	0.489
Turkey	299,158	76	Ankara	Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan	1923	95/80	\$11,400
	73,600,000	1.2				26	69/74	0.806
Turkmenistan	188,456	47	Ashgabat	Turkmen, Uzbek, Russian, others	Presidential dictatorship; President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov	1991	99/98	\$6,700
	5,200,000	1.4				31	61/69	0.739

⁷ Pending elections scheduled for October.
⁸ Parliament unable to agree on Prime Minister at press time.

ASIA

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
United Arab Emirates	32,278	83	Abu Dhabi	Arabic, Farsi, English, Hindi, Urdu	Federation of traditional monarchies; President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan	1971	76/82	\$38,900
	5,400,000	1.4				19	77/79	0.903
Uzbekistan	172,741	36	Tashkent	Uzbek, Russian, Tajik, others	Presidential dictatorship; President Islam Karimov	1991	99/99	\$2,800
	28,100,000	1.8				33	65/71	0.710
Vietnam	128,066	28	Hanoi	Vietnamese, French, Chinese, English, Khmer, others	Communist one-party state; Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung	1945	94/87	\$2,900
	88,900,000	1.2				25	72/76	0.725
Yemen	203,849	29	Sanaa	Arabic	Dominant party; President Ali Abdullah Saleh	1990	71/30	\$2,500
	23,600,000	3.0				45	62/64	0.575

OCEANIA

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Australia	2,988,888	82	Canberra	English, aboriginal languages	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Julia Gillard	1901	99/99	\$40,000
	22,400,000	0.7				19	79/84	0.970
Fiji	7,054	51	Suva	English, Fijian, Hindustani	Military; Interim Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama	1970	96/92	\$3,900
	900,000	1.7				29	66/71	0.741
Kiribati	282	44	Tarawa	English, Gilbertese	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Anote Tong	1979	NA	\$6,100
	100,000	1.8				36	59/63	NA
Marshall Islands	69	68	Majuro	English, Marshallese dialects, Japanese	Parliamentary democracy and traditional chiefs; President Jurelang Zedkaia	1986	94/94	\$2,500
	100,000	2.8				41	64/67	NA
Micronesia	270	22	Palikir	English, Trukese, Pohnpein, Yapese, Kosraean	Parliamentary democracy; President Emanuel Mori	1986	91/88	\$2,200
	100,000	1.9				37	67/68	NA
Nauru	9	100	Yaren District	Nauruan, English	Parliamentary democracy; Interim President Marcus Stephen (during state of emergency)	1968	NA	\$5,000
	10,000	1.9				39	55/57	NA
New Zealand	104,452	86	Wellington	English, Maori	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister John Key	1907	99/99	\$27,400
	4,400,000	0.8				21	78/82	0.950
Palau	178	78	Melekeok	English, Sonsorol'ese, Palauan, others	Presidential-legislative democracy and traditional chiefs; President Johnson Toribiong	1994	93/90	\$8,100
	20,000	0.6				24	66/72	NA
Papua New Guinea	178,703	13	Port Moresby	English, pidgin English, Motu, many others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare	1975	63/51	\$2,300
	6,800,000	2.2				40	57/62	0.541
Samoa	1,097	22	Apia	Samoan, English	Parliamentary democracy and traditional chiefs; Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi	1962	99/99	\$5,400
	200,000	2.0				40	72/74	0.771
Solomon Islands	11,158	17	Honiara	Melanesian pidgin, English, others	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Danny Philip	1978	NA	\$2,500
	500,000	2.5				41	62/63	0.610
Tonga	290	23	Nuku'alofa	Tongan, English	Monarchy; King George Tupou V	1970	99/99	\$6,300
	100,000	2.2				38	67/73	0.768
Tuvalu	10	47	Funafuti	Tuvaluan, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Apisai Ielemia	1978	NA	\$1,600
	10,000	1.4				32	62/65	NA
Vanuatu	4,707	24	Port-Vila	English, French, Bislama	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Edward Natapei	1980	74	\$5,300
	200,000	2.5				40	66/69	0.693



AFRICA



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COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	
Algeria	919,591	63	Algiers	Arabic, French, Berber dialects	Dominant party; President Abdelaziz Bouteflika	1962	80/60	\$7,100
	36,000,000	1.8				28	71/74	0.754
Angola	481,351	57	Luanda	Portuguese, Bantu, others	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); President José Eduardo dos Santos	1975	83/54	\$8,400
	19,000,000	2.5				45	45/49	0.564
Benin	43,483	41	Porto-Novo	French, Fon, Yoruba, others	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Yayi Boni	1960	48/23	\$1,500
	9,800,000	3.0				45	57/60	0.492
Botswana	224,606	60	Gaborone	English, Setswana	Parliamentary democracy and traditional chiefs; President Ian Khama	1966	80/82	\$12,800
	1,800,000	1.9				33	55/55	0.694
Burkina Faso	105,792	23	Ouagadougou	French, Sudanic languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Blaise Compaoré	1960	29/15	\$1,200
	16,200,000	3.4				46	51/54	0.389
Burundi	10,745	10	Bujumbura	Kirundi, French, Swahili	Presidential-legislative democracy (transitional); President Pierre Nkurunziza	1962	67/52	\$300
	8,500,000	2.1				41	49/52	0.394
Cameroon	183,568	53	Yaoundé	English, French, African languages	Dominant party; President Paul Biya	1960	77/60	\$2,300
	20,000,000	2.3				41	50/52	0.523
Cape Verde	1,556	61	Praia	Portuguese, Crioulo	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister José Maria Neves	1975	86/69	\$3,600
	500,000	2.0				35	69/76	0.708
Central African Republic	240,533	38	Bangui	French, Sangho, Arabic, Hunsu, Swahili	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President François Bozizé	1960	65/34	\$700
	4,800,000	2.2				41	47/50	0.369
Chad	495,753	27	N'Djamena	French, Arabic, Sara, others	Dominant party; President Idriss Déby	1960	41/13	\$1,900
	11,500,000	2.9				46	47/50	0.392
Comoros	861	28	Moroni	Arabic, French, Comoran	Presidential-parliamentary ; Acting President Ahmed Abdallah Sambi ⁹	1975	64/49	\$1,000
	700,000	2.6				38	62/66	0.576
Congo, Democratic Rep.	905,351	33	Kinshasa	French, Lingala, Kingwana, Kikongo, Tshiluba	In transition from military to presidential-parliamentary; President Joseph Kabila	1960	81/54	\$300
	67,800,000	2.9				48	46/49	0.389
Congo, Republic	132,046	60	Brazzaville	French, Lingala, Mono-kutuba, Kikongo, others	Military (transitional); President Denis Sassou-Nguesso	1960	90/78	\$3,900
	3,900,000	2.5				42	52/54	0.601
Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	124,502	50	Yamoussoukro	French, Dioula, others	Presidential-parliamentary (transitional); President Laurent Gbagbo	1960	61/39	\$1,700
	22,000,000	2.4				40	51/54	0.484
Djibouti	8,958	76	Djibouti	French, Arabic, Somali, Afar	Dominant party; President Ismail Omar Guelleh	1977	78/58	\$2,700
	900,000	1.8				37	54/57	0.520
Egypt	386,660	43	Cairo	Arabic, English, French	Dominant party; President Hosni Mubarak	1922	83/59	\$6,000
	80,400,000	2.1				33	69/75	0.703
Equatorial Guinea	10,830	39	Malabo	Spanish, French, pidgin English, Fang, Bubi, Ibo	Presidential dictatorship; President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo	1968	93/81	\$37,500
	700,000	2.3				42	48/51	0.719
Eritrea	45,405	21	Asmara	Amharic, Arabic, Afar, Tigrinya, Tigre, many others	One-party dictatorship; President Isaias Afewerki	1993	70/48	\$700
	5,200,000	2.9				42	57/62	0.472
Ethiopia	426,371	16	Addis Ababa	Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, Orominga, English, others	Dominant party; Prime Minister Meles Zenawi	1000 B.C.	50/35	\$900
	85,000,000	2.7				44	54/57	0.414
Gabon	103,347	84	Libreville	French, Fang, Myene, Bateke, others	Dominant party; President Ali Oundimba Bongo	1965	48/33	\$14,000
	1,500,000	1.9				43	54/57	0.456
Gambia	4,363	54	Banjul	English, Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, others	Dominant party; President Yahya Jammeh	1965	48/33	\$1,400
	1,800,000	2.7				43	54/57	0.456
Ghana	92,100	48	Accra	English, Akan, others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President John Atta Mills	1957	66/50	\$1,500
	24,000,000	2.2				39	58/61	0.526

⁹Pending elections scheduled for December.

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COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Guinea	94,927	28	Conakry	French, various African languages	Military (transitional after coup); Acting President Sékouba Konaté ¹⁰	1958	43/18	\$1,000
	10,800,000	3.0				43	55/58	0.435
Guinea-Bissau	13,946	30	Bissau	Portuguese, Criolo, others	Presidential-legislative (transitional); President Malam Bacai Sanhá	1973	58/27	\$1,100
	1,600,000	2.4				43	45/48	0.396
Kenya	224,081	18	Nairobi	English, Swahili, many others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Mwai Kibaki	1963	91/80	\$1,600
	40,000,000	2.7				42	56/57	0.541
Lesotho	11,718	23	Maseru	Sesotho, English, Zulu, Xhosa	Parliamentary and traditional chiefs (transitional); Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili	1966	75/95	\$1,600
	1,900,000	0.9				34	40/43	0.514
Liberia	43,000	58	Monrovia	English, Niger-Congo languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf	1847	73/42	\$400
	4,100,000	3.3				44	54/57	0.442
Libya	679,359	77	Tripoli	Arabic, Italian, English	Dictatorship; Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi	1951	92/72	\$13,400
	6,500,000	1.9				30	72/77	0.847
Madagascar	226,656	31	Antananarivo	French, Malagasy	Presidential-parliamentary democracy (transitional); President Andry Rajoelina	1960	76/63	\$1,000
	20,100,000	2.7				43	59/62	0.543
Malawi	45,745	14	Lilongwe	English, Chichewa, others	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Bingu wa Mutharika	1964	76/50	\$800
	15,400,000	2.9				46	48/50	0.493
Mali	478,838	33	Bamako	French, Bambara, many others	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Amadou Toumani Touré	1960	54/40	\$1,200
	15,200,000	3.1				48	50/53	0.371
Mauritania	395,954	40	Nouakchott	Hasaniya Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof, French	Presidential-legislative (transi-tional); President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz	1960	60/43	\$2,000
	3,400,000	2.3				40	55/59	0.520
Mauritius	788	42	Port Louis	English, Creole, French, Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bojpoori	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam	1968	88/81	\$13,000
	1,300,000	0.5				22	69/76	0.804
Morocco	172,413	57	Rabat	Arabic, Berber dialects, French	Constitutional monarchy; King Muhammad VI	1956	66/40	\$4,700
	31,900,000	1.5				29	69/73	0.654
Mozambique	309,494	31	Maputo	Portuguese, African languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Armando Guebuza	1975	64/33	\$900
	23,400,000	2.3				44	47/49	0.402
Namibia	318,259	35	Windhoek	Afrikaans, German, English, local African languages	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Hifikepunye Pohamba	1990	87/84	\$6,600
	2,200,000	1.9				38	60/62	0.686
Niger	489,189	20	Niamey	French, Hausa, Djerma	Military (transitional); Chairman Salou Djibo	1960	43/15	\$700
	15,900,000	3.5				49	48/49	0.340
Nigeria	356,668	47	Abuja	English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Goodluck Jonathan	1960	76/61	\$2,300
	158,300,000	2.4				43	47/48	0.511
Rwanda	10,170	17	Kigali	Kinyarwanda, French, English, Kiswahili	Dominant party; President Paul Kagame	1962	76/65	\$1,000
	10,400,000	2.9				42	50/53	0.460
São Tomé and Príncipe	371	58	São Tomé	Portuguese	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Fradique de Menezes	1975	92/78	\$1,700
	200,000	2.9				44	64/69	0.651
Senegal	75,954	41	Dakar	French, Wolof, Pulaar, Diola, Mandingo	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Abdoulaye Wade	1960	51/29	\$1,600
	12,500,000	2.8				44	54/57	0.464
Seychelles	174	53	Victoria	English, French, Creole	Presidential-legislative democracy; President James Michel	1976	91/92	\$20,800
	100,000	1.0				22	68/78	0.845
Sierra Leone	27,699	36	Freetown	English, Mende, Temne, Krio	Presidential-legislative democracy; President Ernest Bai Koroma	1961	47/24	\$900
	5,800,000	2.4				43	46/49	0.365
Somalia	246,201	34	Mogadishu	Somali, Arabic, Italian, English	Limited government disputed by factions	1960	50/26	\$600
	9,400,000	3.0				45	48/51	NA

¹⁰Pending runoff election scheduled for October.

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COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
South Africa	471,444	52	Cape Town, Pretoria, and Bloemfontein	English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Sotho, others	Parliamentary democracy; President Jacob Zuma	1910	87/86	\$10,300
	49,900,000	0.9				31	54/57	0.683
Sudan	967,494	38	Khartoum	Arabic, Nubian, Ta Bedawie, English, others	Presidential-legislative (military-dominated); President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir	1956	72/51	\$2,300
	43,200,000	2.2				41	57/60	0.531
Swaziland	6,703	22	Mbabane and Lobamba	English, siSwati	Monarchy; King Mswati III	1968	83/81	\$4,400
	1,200,000	1.5				40	46/45	0.572
Tanzania	364,900	25	Dar es Salaam	Kiswahili, English, Arabic, many others	Dominant party; President Jakaya Kikwete (pending October elections)	1964	78/62	\$1,400
	45,000,000	3.0				45	55/56	0.530
Togo	21,927	40	Lomé	French, Ewe, Mina, Dagomba, Kabye	Dominant party; President Faure Gnassingbé	1960	75/47	\$900
	6,800,000	2.5				41	60/63	0.499
Tunisia	63,170	66	Tunis	Arabic, French	Dominant party; President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali	1956	83/65	\$8,200
	10,500,000	1.2				24	72/76	0.769
Uganda	93,066	13	Kampala	English, Luganda, Swahili, others	Dominant party; President Yoweri Museveni	1962	77/58	\$1,200
	33,800,000	3.4				49	52/53	0.514
Zambia	290,583	37	Lusaka	English, Bemba, Tonga, others	Presidential-legislative democracy (transitional); President Rupiah Banda	1964	87/75	\$1,600
	13,300,000	2.5				46	41/42	0.481
Zimbabwe	150,873	37	Harare	English, Shona, Sindebele, others	Dominant party; President Robert Mugabe	1980	94/87	\$100
	12,600,000	1.3				42	41/44	NA

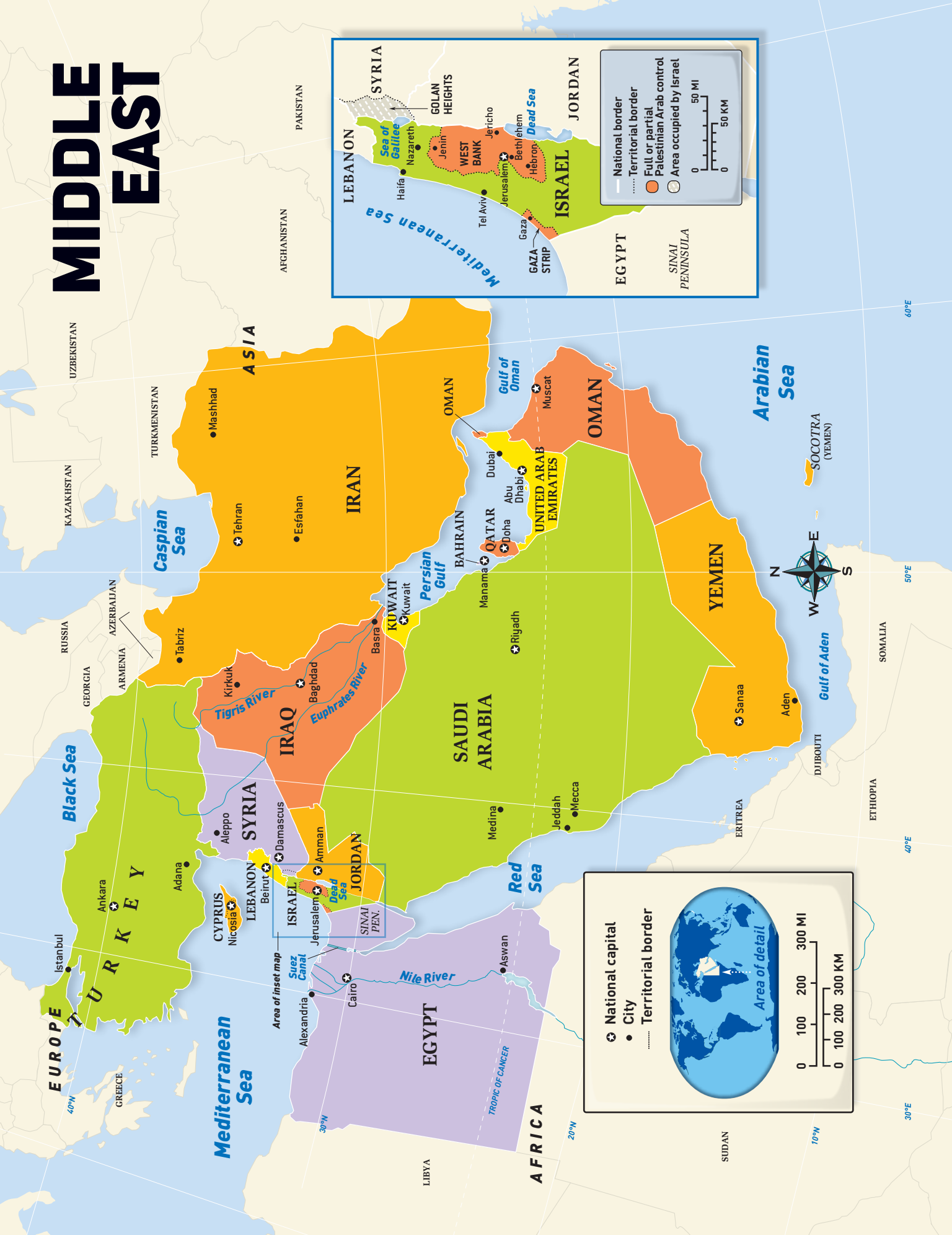
Political Systems Around the World

Communist one-party state: All land and businesses are government-owned, and individual freedom is limited. Only the Communist party has power.	exist but have relatively little power.	has almost complete power.
Constitutional monarchy: A king or queen is head of state but has limited power. An elected Parliament (legislature) chooses the Prime Minister, who leads the government.	Military rule: The leader of a country's armed forces controls the government.	Presidential-legislative democracy: An elected President leads the government, sharing power with a legislature and with the courts.
Dominant party: A system in which one political party rules. Other parties may	One-party dictatorship: A single party and its leader hold power.	governments, sharing power with a legislature and with the courts.
	Parliamentary democracy: Voters elect the Parliament. A Prime Minister, usually leader of the party with the most seats in Parliament, heads the government.	Presidential-parliamentary democracy: An elected President is chief executive. A Prime Minister leads the government.
	Presidential dictatorship: A President	Traditional chiefs: A body of tribal leaders who play a role in governing.

Notes on the country data
Head of government: The person most responsible for running the government. Many countries have both a head of government and a head of state. For example, Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state in the United Kingdom (U.K.), but Prime Minister David Cameron runs the government. **Literacy rate:** Experts doubt some estimates. **NA:** Figures not available. **Per capita gross domestic product:** This figure is given in U.S. dollars.

Sources: For area, population, urban population, annual population increase, percent of population under 15 years, and life expectancy: *2010 World Population Data Sheet* (Population Reference Bureau) • **For capital, major languages, date of origin, literacy rate, and per capita GDP:** *The World Factbook 2010* (Central Intelligence Agency) • **For political systems:** Based on information from *Freedom in the World*, an annual publication of Freedom House (a nonprofit human-rights organization) and its Web site (freedomhouse.org); news accounts; *World Book Encyclopedia*; the U.S. State Department and its Web site (state.gov); and BBC News country profiles • **For heads of government:** Based on information from the GeoCities “Rulers” Web site (rulers.org), the State Department and its Web site, *The World Factbook 2010*, and news accounts • **For HDI:** *Human Development Report 2009* (United Nations Development Program) • **For Kosovo:** *World Book Encyclopedia*, *The World Factbook 2010*, and the State Department Web site. All figures are the latest available from each source for each country. All information is as of October 4, 2010.

MIDDLE EAST



The Middle East is a region, not a continent. It is mostly in Asia, but also includes a part of Africa (Egypt) and a corner of Europe (the small European section of Turkey). Middle East countries are also included on our maps and tables for Asia and Africa.

Separated from eastern Asia by the mountains of Afghanistan, the Middle East has a distinct identity. Most of its people are Muslim, although Christians, Jews, and people of other faiths also live there. Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, is the spiritual center of Islam.

The Middle East is home to most of the world’s oil production, which makes it a crucial place strategically. It is also an area of great tensions.

In recent years, the U.S. has fought two wars in Iraq. The U.S. is also struggling with Iran over its ambitions for nuclear power. With U.S. help, negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians resumed in September, but a resolution to their long-running dispute remains elusive.

THE MIDDLE EAST

COUNTRY	AREA (SQ MI)	URBAN POP. %	CAPITAL	LANGUAGES	POLITICAL SYSTEM & HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	DATE OF ORIGIN	LITERACY RATE (%)	PER CAPITA GDP
	POPULATION	POP. RISE %/YEAR				% OF POP. UNDER 15	LIFE EXPECTANCY	HDI
Bahrain	266	100	Manama	Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu	Monarchy; King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifah	1971	89/84	\$38,800
	1,300,000	1.3				20	73/77	0.895
Cyprus ¹¹	3,571	62	Nicosia	Greek, Turkish, English	Presidential-parliamentary (divided); Presidents Dimitris Christofias and Dervis Eroglu	1960	99/96	\$21,000
	1,100,000	0.6				18	77/80	0.914
Egypt	386,660	43	Cairo	Arabic, English, French	Dominant party; President Hosni Mubarak	1922	83/59	\$6,000
	80,400,000	2.1				33	69/75	0.703
Iran	630,575	69	Tehran	Farsi, Turkic, Kurdish, Luri, others	Presidential-parliamentary under religious control; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad	1502	84/70	\$12,500
	75,100,000	1.3				28	70/73	0.782
Iraq	169,236	67	Baghdad	Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian	Transitional to parliamentary democracy; results of March elections disputed at press time	1932	84/64	\$3,800
	31,500,000	2.6				41	64/72	NA
Israel ¹²	8,131	92	Jerusalem	Hebrew, Arabic, English	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu	1948	99/96	\$28,400
	7,600,000	1.6				28	79/83	0.935
Jordan	34,444	83	Amman	Arabic, English	Constitutional monarchy; King Abdullah II	1946	95/85	\$5,200
	6,500,000	2.6				38	72/74	0.770
Kuwait	6,880	98	Kuwait	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah	1961	94/91	\$52,800
	3,100,000	2.0				23	76/80	0.916
Lebanon	4,015	87	Beirut	Arabic, French, Armenian, English	Presidential-parliamentary democracy; President Michel Suleiman	1943	93/82	\$13,200
	4,300,000	1.5				25	70/74	0.803
Oman	82,031	72	Muscat	Arabic, English, Baluchi, Urdu, others	Monarchy; Sultan Qaboos bin Said al-Said	1650	87/74	\$25,000
	3,100,000	1.8				29	70/74	0.846
Qatar	4,247	100	Doha	Arabic, English	Monarchy; Emir Hamid bin Khalifa al-Thani	1971	89/89	\$119,500
	1,700,000	0.8				15	75/77	0.910
Saudi Arabia	829,996	81	Riyadh	Arabic	Monarchy; King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud	1932	85/71	\$20,600
	29,200,000	2.6				38	74/78	0.843
Syria	71,498	54	Damascus	Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, French, others	Dominant party; President Bashar al-Assad	1946	86/74	\$4,600
	22,500,000	2.5				36	72/76	0.742
Turkey	299,158	76	Ankara	Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic	Parliamentary democracy; Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan	1923	95/80	\$11,400
	73,600,000	1.2				26	69/74	0.806
United Arab Emirates	32,278	83	Abu Dhabi	Arabic, Farsi, English, Hindi, Urdu	Federation of traditional monarchies; President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nuhayyan	1971	76/82	\$38,900
	5,400,000	1.4				19	77/79	0.903
Yemen	203,849	29	Sanaa	Arabic	Dominant party; President Ali Abdullah Saleh	1990	71/30	\$2,500
	23,600,000	3.0				45	62/64	0.525

¹¹ Does not include separate Turkish Cypriot-controlled area in the north.
¹² Does not include Israeli-occupied parts of the West Bank.